

Camelthorn *Alhagi pseudalhagi* Bieb.

Identification:

This grayish green perennial is a spiny, intricately branched shrub that grows 1 ½ to 4 feet tall. The spines are ¼ to ⅓ of an inch long. The leaves are alternate and wedge shaped with tiny hairs on the underside. The thick and leathery leaves are ¼ to 1¼ inches long and ⅛ to ½ inch wide. Camelthorn grows small pea-like flowers that range in color from pink to maroon, blooming from June to July. The seeds and fruit develop from July to August.



Potential Damage:

Camelthorn spreads by seeds and rhizomatous roots. It can spread at a rate of 10 meters per year causing large infestations to develop in a very short period of time. The seeds are spread by wind, wildlife and vehicles.



Control and Prevention:

Take care not to drive or walk through infested areas. Stop and inspect vehicle between patrol units. MARK infested sites with bright pink or orange flagging. MARK SITE on map and provide to Refuge Operations Specialist immediately upon return from field. Constant effort, annually, during spring and fall growing seasons is necessary to prevent spread of this plant. Camelthorn is a Class B noxious weed in Washington state and land owners/managers are legally required to prevent the spread of this plant.



Current Status on the Hanford Reach National Monument:

Camelthorn is currently found on the Wahluke slope north of highway 24 on the asphalt pad near the old dog trial area. **Please be aware to look for this plant everywhere, but especially on the Wahluke slope.**